

Robert H. BLACKWELL et al  
Serial No. 10/602,411  
August 18, 2004

### REMARKS

As noted briefly above, the amendments presented above follow a helpful telephone conference with Examiner Edwards earlier today. In this regard, the undersigned sincerely appreciates Examiner Edwards' thoughtful consideration of the issues in this matter and believe that the discussion has materially advanced prosecution of the same.

The undersigned discussed the manner in which the claim amendments proposed above define the fiber of the present invention patentably over the fiber disclosed in Japanese Patent Publication 63159511 (hereinafter the "JP '511 publication"). Specifically, the undersigned noted that, unlike the fiber of the present invention, the cross-sectional periphery of the fiber shown in the JP '511 publication has several "flat" surfaces. In this regard, there is attached hereto a greatly enlarged photocopy of the fiber cross-section depicted in the JP '511 publication wherein at least two of the "flat" surfaces defining its cross-sectional periphery have been circled.

It is submitted therefore that the language employed in the amended version of claim 1 (which language is supported by the disclosure appearing at page 5, lines 33-37 of the originally filed specification) distinguishes the fiber of the present invention patentably over the fiber disclosed in the JP '511 publication.

Examiner Edwards noted during the telephone conference that the allowance notice for this application would be processed promptly upon his receipt of the amendments to claim 1 as noted above. Accordingly early allowance of this application is awaited.

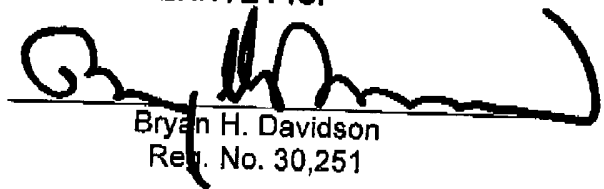
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However, should any small matter remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the applicants' undersigned attorney so that the same may be resolved without the need for an additional written action and reply.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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